

The New Sumatran Pig.

Sus oi in the Rio-Linga Archipelago.

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In September 1901 a single specimen of a peculiar pig was obtained up the Indragiri River, E. Sumatra by Dr. W. L. Abbott who presented it to the U. S. National Museum. According to the natives of the locality, the "nang-oi," as they call it—thus differentiating it from the common pig—is abundant in the forest and sago plantations along the banks of the river and its foot-prints may always be distinguished from those of *Sus vittatus* by their much greater size.

From this one specimen a new species, *Sus oi* was described and it was, until recently, the only one on record, but lately other examples of what appears to be the same animal have been obtained by Mr. J. E. Romenij and others on Pulo Battam. As most of the islands of the Rio-Linga Archipelago possess their own forms of monkeys, rodents, mouse-deer, etc., it is possible that these pigs may eventually be found to differ sufficiently from the animal of the Sumatran mainland to form an insular race although less probably than is the case with the others, for pigs do not seem liable to as great variation. At present, however, they appear to be the typical *Sus oi*.

Mr. Romenij communicates the following with regard to them.

"These pigs were hunted in the way customary here, viz., with a number of Kling trackers and beaters and a pack of wild dogs, mostly pariahs. During the few weeks that I had at my disposal to go out shooting I went regularly to Pulo Battam and got to know the places where these pigs were to be found, with the result that we bagged several of them and amongst these some fine big boars. The largest one that was shot there was unfortunately lost on the way back, as the sampan, in

which the carcass was towed behind the launch, got upset in a rough sea. The photograph of a very fine boar shot by another party shows the abnormal size of the head in comparison with the body and funny light coloured bumps on the head which the ordinary wild pigs don't show. This was a very old chap. My boars seem to me to be in a better condition and more in proportion with *long* and heavy bodies and standing high on their legs.

"I think I have told you before that I and others have frequently been to the same island in former years but never came across this kind of pig, and I can only conclude that it is the pineapple plantations now opened up near the coast, which have drawn them lately from the more interior parts of the island.

"In Java, I am told by old sportsmen, there exists a kind of wild boar which also has the hairy warts on the nose but no beard or whiskers* same as the Pulo Battam boar has. Some North Borneo planters who have seen my head, say that the N. Borneo boar† is more yellowish and that an old sow there has even far heavier whiskers and hairy warts than any boar: there is therefore a good deal of difference between these and the Pulo Battam pigs.

"The same kind of pig is said to be found on Pulo Bintang (Rio)."

Below is the description of the type specimen:—

Sus oi sp. nov.

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"*Type*.—Adult male (skin and skull) No. 113,150 United States National Museum. Collected on banks of the Indragiri River (about 30 miles above mouth) eastern Sumatra, September 20, 1901, by Dr. W. L. Abbott. Original number 1319.

Characters.—Externally most like *Sus barbatus*, but with body even more scantily haired (there is no mane and the skin

* *Sus barbatus*.

† *Sus verrucosus*.

is nowhere concealed by the bristles except on the face), and two well-developed warty protuberances on muzzle. Skull essentially as in *Sus longirostris*. Teeth smaller than in *Sus longirostris* or *S. barbatus*, the posterior lower molar greatly reduced in size, much as in *Sus celebensis*.

External features.—The body and neck are sparsely and uniformly sprinkled with black bristles which nowhere conceal the yellowish white skin. On sides and belly they are very stiff, closely appressed and directed backward, about 20 mm. in length and nearly .5 mm. in diameter. On legs they are less coarse in texture and sufficiently numerous to produce a distinct dark shade. Along middle of neck and back they increase in length to about 50 mm., the diameter at the same time decreasing to .3 mm. The hairs form no mane, but throughout the region where it occurs in other hogs the hairs are less scattered and appressed than elsewhere. They are black, tipped with yellowish brown. Head as in *Sus barbatus*,* except that about midway between eye and muzzle there are two well-developed protuberances 30 mm. in length and 20 mm. in breadth densely covered with stiff antrorse bristles. These bristles as well as those of the upper part of the face are uniformly yellowish brown. On cheeks they are strongly intermixed with black. Tail scantily covered with stiff black hairs about 25 mm. in length. They nowhere conceal the skin, but on terminal third are sufficiently close-set along sides to form a distinct flattened brush.

Skull.—The skull so closely resembles that of an adult male *Sus longirostris* from Borneo that it might readily be supposed to belong to an individual of the same species.

Teeth.—The teeth, with the exception of the canines, are uniformly smaller and narrower than those of *Sus longirostris*. Upper incisors wide apart, the second separated from both first and third by a space of 15 mm. (in *S. longirostris* the distance between second and first is 5 mm., that between second and third only 2 mm.). Posterior upper molar with last tubercle less than half as large as in the corresponding tooth of *S.*

*See plate xxx, of Verhandel. over de Natuurlijke Geschiedenis der Nederl. overzeesche bezittingen.

longirostris. Third lower molar consisting of only two cross ridges and a terminal heel, the entire length of the tooth much less than that of the tooth preceding teeth combined. In form it closely resembles Nehring's figure of the same tooth in *Sus celebensis** and is very different from that of *Sus longirostris* and *Sus cristatus*.†

Measurements.—External measurements of type: total length, 1870; head and body, 1575; tail, 295; height at shoulder, 850; height at rump, 800; ear from meatus, 88; ear from crown, 97; width of ear, 75. Weight 113 kg. Cranial measurements of type: greatest length, 480 (465)§; basal length, 405 (390); basilar length (to tip of premaxillary), 410 (397); palatal length to tip of premaxillary, 330 (—); width of palate at pm. ‡, 50 (45); zygomatic breadth, 162 (148); least interorbital breadth 80 (76); length of nasals, 240 (230); greatest breadth of both nasals together, 38 (38); occipital depth (to lower rim of foramen magnum), 140 (140)."

I have recently had the opportunity of examining the skull and freshly flayed skin of a Battam boar presented to the Raffles Museum, Singapore, by Mr. Romenij and have been struck by certain details in which it differs from the above characters, but as this is merely a comparison of one isolated individual until the description of another it is unsafe to draw any conclusions.

On roughly comparing the partially cleaned skull, however, with those of three *longirostris*? boars in the Raffles Museum from the Baram R., Sarawak, the greater facial angle and breadth of palate and lower jaw were immediately noticeable.

A space of 10 m.m. only separates the upper incisors from each other.

*Abhandl. u. Berichte des K. zoologisch. u. anthrop.-ethnol. Mul. zu Dresden, 1888-1889, pl. ii, fig. 8.

†In *Sus barbatus*, this tooth is, according to Nehring, of the usual form, that is with three cross ridges and a terminal heel.

‡Measurements in parenthesis are these of an adult male *Sus longirostris*.

The colouring too is somewhat different. The scantily haired skin is generally covered with an equal mixture of pale yellowish and black hairs, the former darkened and the latter bleached for two to three millimetres at the tip, but this parti-colouring is only remarked on close examination. The growth, however, is so slight as not to detract from the dirty yellowish appearance of the body which is thus contrasted with the outer sides of the forelegs that are almost entirely black, as are the lower hind-legs also, but to a less extent; while the short bristles between the bare snout and the warts are grizzled black and whitish. The fore-head and inter-orbital region are freely sprinkled with short, pure white hairs very slightly yellowish at the tips.

The spatulate-like growth of coarse black bristles on the distal third of the tail is very noticeable and forms a marked point of difference from *Sus barbatus* and *longirostris* in which the tails are covered with bristles throughout in all the examples I have seen.

The warts on the nose are elliptical in shape, the greatest diameter being about 50 m.m. and they rise some 40 m.m. above the skin surface from which they spring: they are entirely cartilaginous and in no way connected with the skull.

Between the eye and ear and at the angle of the lower jaw the skin forms almost a distended pocket and it is from the ridge of this excrescence that the curled whiskers, which show such a remarkable development in some specimens, take their rise.

The animal is practically maneless except for a slight lengthening of hair above the neck and shoulders but this is only visible when closely looked for. The specimen under discussion stood 39 inches (990 m.m.) high at the shoulder and the length from tip of snout to tail—unfortunately taken along the curves of the body instead of in a straight line—was $73\frac{1}{2}$ inches (1866 m.m.)

The teeth show it to be fully adult and while the skin of a *cristatus* or *vittatus* boar of the same age would have shoulder shields little less than an inch in thickness this *Sus oi* skin not

only shows no thickening at all in that region but is remarkable for its exceeding thinness throughout.

In a note on *Sus oi* in the "Field" of August 13th, 1904, Mr. R. Lyddeker (apparently basing his opinion merely on two photographs of Mr. Romenij's specimens) is inclined to doubt whether it can be separated from *Sus barbatus* and also repeatedly claims it as an addition to the fauna of the Malay Peninsula.

Without going into the question of the validity of *Sus oi* as a species—save to remark that it is doubtful whether there is at present in Europe sufficient material with which to refute Mr. Miller's opinion of its distinctness—I cannot refrain from pointing out that it is impossible to claim this pig for the Malay Peninsula on the strength of its occurrence in Pulo Batam since the affinity of the fauna of the islands of the Rio-Linga Archipelago—although strongly specifically differentiated in many respects—is entirely with that of Sumatra.

Only one species of wild pig is at present known to occur in the Malay Peninsula and that is the animal regarded as identical with *Sus cristatus* of India, and I see no more reason for now claiming *Sus oi* for the Mainland than there would have been for including in the past *Sus vittatus*, *Presbytes maurus* and other animals that occur in the above islands, amongst the fauna of the Malay Peninsula.

(The plates illustrating this paper are from photographs lent by Mr. Romenij).



Sus oi. Full grown boar.



Sus oi. Head of boar.



Sus oi. Head of boar.